



BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1966

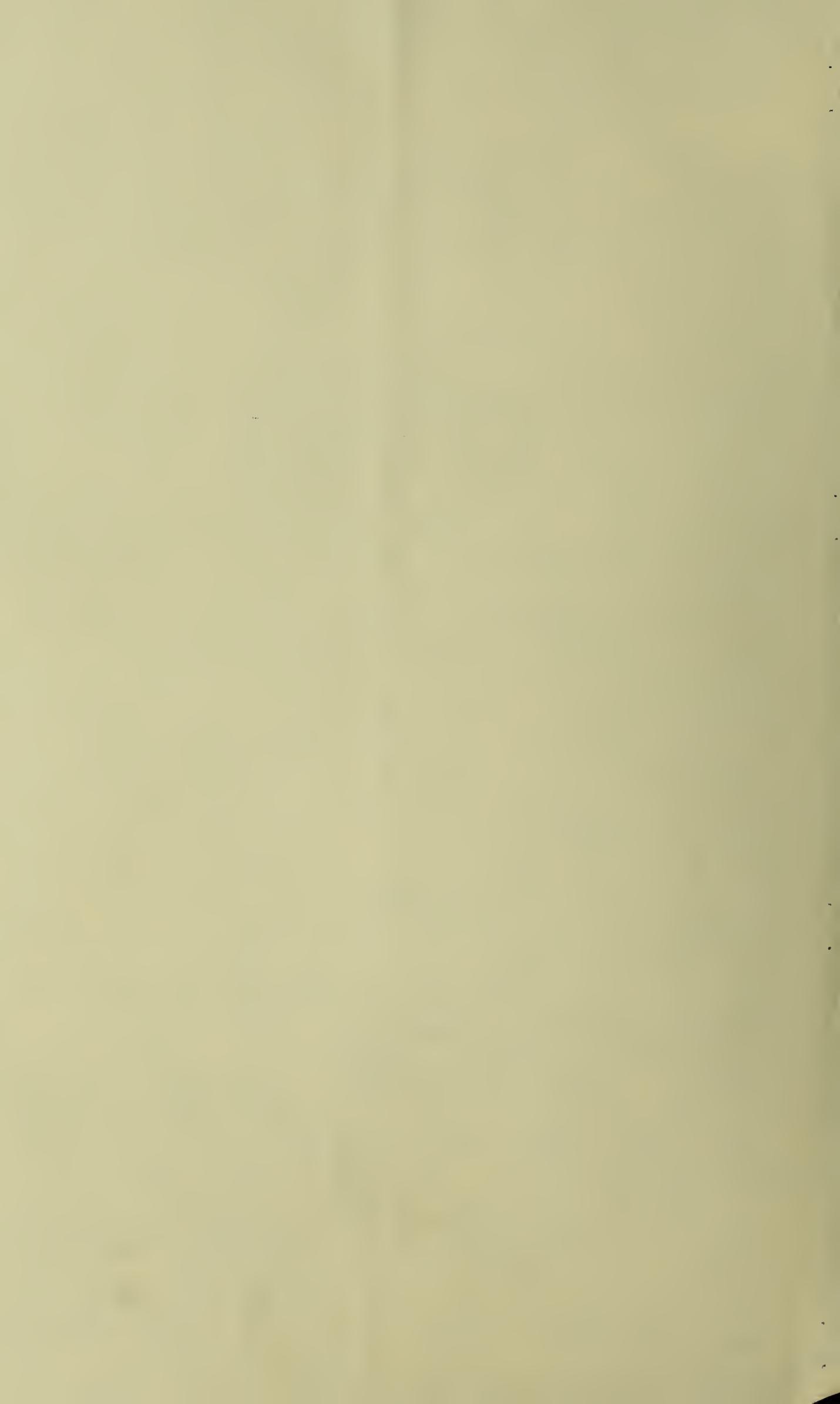
PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.F.J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1966.

1. Statistics

General Statistics

| | |
|---|----------|
| Registrar General's Estimate of Mid Year Population | 7,220 |
| Area in Acres | 3,312 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 2,220 |
| Rateable Value | £206,175 |
| Product of Penny Rate | £862 |
| Comparability Factors | 1.14 |
| Births | 0.45 |
| Deaths | |

Vital Statistics

Births :

No. of Registered Live Births, 1966

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 65 | 57 | 122 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Total | 70 | 60 | 130 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 population | 18.0 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 population England & Wales | 17.7 |
| Comparable birth rate | 20.5 |

Stillbirths

Two legitimate male stillbirths were registered

Deaths

No. of Registered Deaths, 1966

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 70 | 99 | 169 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Crude death rate per 1,000 population | 23.4 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England & Wales | 11.7 |
| Comparable death rate | 10.53 |

The number of deaths in the Borough, excluding those occurring in St. Lawrence's Hospital, was 87 (40 male, 47 female).

One male infant died within the first week of life.

The Distribution of Deaths by Age, Sex and Cause

| Cause | Sex | 0-1 | 1 - | 15 - | 25 - | 35 - | 45 - | 55- 65- | 75+ Total | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Heart Disease | M | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 17 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 14 21 |
| Respiratory Diseases | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 3 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 6 8 |
| Cerebro Vascular Disease | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 8 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 6 |
| Cancer | M | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 7 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 5 |
| All Other Causes | M | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | - 5 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | 3 7 |
| Total | M | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | 15 | 15 40 |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 12 | 28 47 |

II General Provision of Health Services

Hospital Services. The East Cornwall Hospital in the Town has 24 General Practitioner beds and provides out-patient facilities for a number of specialities. The X-Ray department has been enlarged this year and new equipment installed. The St. Lawrence's Hospital has approximately 1,200 beds for the mentally ill. Major surgical and medical admissions go to the new hospital at Treliiske or to the City Hospital, Truro. Ante-natal and gynaecological cases may attend an out-patients department at St. Austell, where uncomplicated confinements may be admitted to the Maternity Unit. Other cases in this field are admitted to the Hospital in Redruth.

The Mass Radiography Unit visits the town fortnightly on Fridays and is available for General Practitioners reference and the public.

Laboratory Services. The Public Health Laboratory, Truro, under the direction of Dr. Barrow, continued to be used for the submission of samples taken for public health purposes.

County Council Services. (National Health Services Act, 1946)

Ambulances: The Station at Bodmin continued to be the main source of hospital transport. All vehicles are radio-controlled from the station. The Voluntary Car Service continued to supply some transport for patients attending out-patients.

Home Nursing and Midwifery. Two fully-qualified district nurse midwives were employed during the year, with additional assistance from two general trained nurses. The amount of domiciliary midwifery has become considerably less since the opening of the St. Austell Maternity Unit. More than three quarters of the births now take place in hospital.

Health Visiting. The Borough, together with some parishes of the Wadebridge Rural District, are covered by two whole time health visitors, one of whom is responsible for the supervision of tubercular patients and their contacts.

Home Help Service. Domestic help is provided by the County Council through the full time Home Help organiser based in St. Austell. The majority of the assistance is to the elderly infirm.

Vaccination and Immunisation. Protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Smallpox is available through the General Practitioners or the Infant Welfare Centre. B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is obtained by contacts at the Chest Clinic held at the East Cornwall Hospital, or for Secondary School entrants through the School Health Service. Yellow-Fever innoculations can be obtained at the Health Area Office in Truro, by appointment.

Infant Welfare. The Centre is held on the first and third Tuesday each month, providing immunisation and advice on the problems of infant and child care.

Welfare Services. The County Council has a newly constructed home for the elderly within the Priory Grounds, providing accommodation for 48 elderly persons who are no longer able to live without assistance. The County also provides a limited chiropody service for the house-bound. A guaranteed rent scheme is in operation, which assists the Council to retain those families in their homes who would otherwise have been evicted for non-payment of rent. A family social worker assists in the supervision of serious problem families.

Voluntary Services. The services of the Family Planning Association are available in Wadebridge, the Council making a financial contribution to the running costs. The Over 65's club in the town provides some services to the elderly in their own homes, and a Playgroup recently established in Narissa Hall provides preliminary training for children aged 3 - 5 years. The Council also give financial aid to the Playgroup. The Town has a flourishing division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, offering training in first aid.

School Health Service. Routine medical inspection of children attending the Primary and Secondary schools indicated no significant evidence of malnutrition. The general health and physical standard of pupils appeared to be good. There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. The Primary and Grammar school premises leave much to be desired. Neither have reached the standard of provision existing in similar schools which I attended almost half a century ago. If the Council's plans for expansion materialise, school improvements will become really urgent. School meals and milk were adequately provided. In the latter case, one might say 'more than adequately'. The general provision of a free $\frac{1}{2}$ pint per school day is difficult to reconcile with the apparent increase in the number of overweight school children. A much more realistic approach would be to provide free milk to those children/families considered to be needing it, and in even larger quantities.

III, Sanitary Circumstances

Water Supplies. The North and Mid Cornwall Water Board is the supplying authority. Most of the Town's water is taken from the St. Breward source, with additional quantities from the De Lank works. The former is an unfiltered chlorinated low pH water, and frequently gives rise to complaints of serious discolouration. The present small storage reservoir on the Beacon Hill is to be replaced by a one million gallon reservoir at Six Chimneys on a much higher site. The new reservoir will have to accept water from the St. Breward Source until such time as the De Lank supply is available.

Sixty samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Only one proved to be unsatisfactory. Although fluoridation of water supplied has been accepted in principle by the County Council, no steps have yet been taken to implement it.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The town has three sewage treatment works, two recently constructed. They have functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. The only problem, common to many sewage works, is the disposal of sludge, which during wet seasons is extremely difficult to dry to a point where it can be handled. No demand appears to exist in agriculture or horticulture, and it must therefore be removed to the town's refuse tip.

The old sewers in the lower part of the town which are believed to take considerable quantities of water from the leat, have not yet been replaced. Ministry approval has been the cause of the delay.

Refuse Disposal. The Council's site at Scarletts Well continued in use without serious complaint. Sites for future refuse disposal were inspected during the year, but no positive recommendations were made. The existing system of refuse collection appeared to provide an adequate service.

Rodent Control. No reports were received of serious infestations in the Town.

Caravan Sites Control and Development Act.

The licenced site at Dunmere continued in satisfactory operation. The Council obtained a successful prosecution against the owner of an unlicenced site which had continued in operation. An appeal is pending against the Planning Authorities refusal to allow a further residential site at Tregyrlls Farm.

Three licences were granted for caravans on individual sites.

Public Health Inspection

Summary of Inspection

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Meat Inspection | 456 visits |
| Housing Inspection | 43 ,, |
| Food and Drugs | 236 ,, |
| Offices, Shops & Railway Premises | 61 ,, |
| Infectious Diseases | 14 ,, |
| | <hr/> |
| | 810 |
| | <hr/> |

As predicted in last year's report, the reorganisation of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspectors Department resulted in a sharp fall in the amount of routine supervision carried out. Essential visits to slaughterhouses for the inspection of carcases, and the investigation of complaints were all that was possible. It is not possible therefore, to report on the progress relating to Offices, Shops and Railways premises or Factories, and no routine inspections were carried out on premises for the preparation and sale of food.

Housing

The redevelopment of Downing Street was completed, and that of Rhind Street, comprising a total of 24 flats. At Midway Road, 48 two-bedroomed bungalows and 48 garages were completed. The construction of 150 dwellings at Whitestone Road is in progress.

Forty-six private dwellings were completed during the year.

Food and Drugs

Thirteen premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream. No samples were submitted during the year. The following items of unsound food were voluntarily surrendered:-

944 tins of various food stuffs
8 cartons of frozen food

One successful prosecution was obtained by the County Weights and Measures Department for the sale of unsound food.

The two licenced slaughterhouses functioned satisfactorily during the year. All carcases were inspected as were those of the St. Lawrence's Hospital used for hospital consumption. The results of meat inspection were as follows:-

Meat Inspection
Year Ending December, 1966

| | Cattle Ex Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|------------------|------|
| Number killed | 382 |)Not inspected | 17 | 972 | 593 |
| Number supplied | 382 |)inspected | 17 | 972 | 593 |
| <u>All diseases except</u> | | | | | |
| <u>cysticercosis and</u> | | | | | |
| <u>tuberculosis</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcase condemned | nil | nil | nil | 1 | 4 |
| Part carcase condemned | 48 | nil | nil | 27 | 12 |
| <u>Cysticercosis only</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | nil | nil | nil | nil | nil |
| Weight of meat condemned | Not Available | | | | |

IV Prevention Control
of Infectious Diseases

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1966

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Measles | 19 |
| Non-Pulmonary T.B. | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 5 |
| Dysentery | 1 |

There were no major outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease during the year. There were no reported causes of Food-poisoning.

Prophylactic inoculations were given to children in their first year in the following proportion:-

| | |
|--|-------|
| Triple Vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough) | 89.2% |
| Smallpox | 18.4% |
| Poliomyelitis | 78.4% |

The figures for Triple Vaccine and Poliomyelitis are quite good. The proportion protected against smallpox is quite ineffective as a public health measure.

The Mass Radiography continued to attend fortnightly at the Priory Car Park. No significant findings were reported during the year.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

